



Friends of Michigan History - Board of Directors

Officers

Francis "Bus" Spaniola, President
David H. Brickey, Vice-President
Keith G. Harrison, Secretary
Dr. Richard S. Johnson, Treasurer

Directors

Adriana Greci Green
Dr. Keith Pohl
Charles Seeley
Tom Shawver
Louise W. Stilwill
Paul Tarr
Tom Truscott
Bill Wellman
Geneva Wiskemann

Michigan Historical Center Foundation - Board of Directors

Officers

Deborah Muchmore, Chair
Francis "Bus" Spaniola, Vice Chair
Jim Wardlaw, Vice Chair
Patrice Merritt, Secretary
Jonathan T. Walton, Treasurer

Directors

William M. Anderson
John R. Axe
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Paul Drake
Mary Meade Fuger
Mark T. Gaffney
Randolph V. Ragsdale
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John "Joe" Schwarz

Ex officio

Sandra S. Clark, Director
Michigan Historical Center

Patricia L. Clark
Development Director

Carol A. Payne
Development Administrator

**FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC
MEETING MINUTES
Lansing, Michigan
October 9, 2006**

Call to Order:

President Bus Spaniola called the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History (Friends) to order at 10:05 AM.

Board Members Present: Adriana Greci Green, Keith Harrison, Richard Johnson, Keith Pohl, Charles Seeley, Bus Spaniola, Louise Stilwill, Paul Tarr, Tom Truscott, Bill Wellman, and Geneva Wiskemann.

Board Members Excused: David Brickey and Tom Shawver

Museum Staff Present: Chris Dancisak.

Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as amended; motion passed.

Minutes from Previous Meetings

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as transmitted for the September 9, 2006 with the following two changes (Tom Shawver should be noted at chair of the Veterans' Day Program for the Board and the spelling of Carol Paynes' name should be corrected); motion passed.

President's Report

President Spaniola indicated that the September 25, 2006 meeting with Michigan Historical Center Foundation President Debra Muchmore went well. It was found out that the Michigan Historical Center Foundation was having the same problem that the Friends were having in terms of not knowing exactly how its finances were being handled by the state. The Michigan Historical Center Foundation also had the same concern as the Friends about how this lack of knowledge could jeopardize its 501(C)(3) standing with the Internal Revenue Service. A meeting is scheduled for October 23rd (time unknown at this time) in Lansing with the state officials who currently administer the financial operations for both the Friends and the Michigan Historical Center Foundation. It was mentioned that the Friends have received a quote from the accountant who currently handles Paul Tarr's company. The Friends are prepared to consider the taking back its control of its own fiscal operation should the outcome of the October 23rd meeting with the state prove either inadequate or to be in conflict with the Friends' obligation under the Internal Revenue Code.

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Treasurer's Report

The handwritten treasurer's report is presented below. The report was for August and September. The balance on hand was \$12,407.64. This dollar amount includes restricted funds for Walker Tavern (\$616.10) and the Military Exhibit (\$119.80).

ATTACHMENT TO OCTOBER 6, 2006 MINUTES 10-406		
Friends of MICHIGAN HISTORY		
TREASURER'S REPORT		
August-Sept 2006		
Balance	7-31-06	11,266.49
deposit	9-12-06	1809.25
		<u>13,075.74</u>
Checks		
1251	Sept 14	173.35
1252	Sept 14	20.00
1253	Vol 10	
1254	Old County	474.75
		<u>668.10</u>
Balance	9-30-06	<u><u>12,407.64</u></u>
Handed Check		
1255	MI Council of Education	50.00
Restricted		
Walker Tavern	616.10	
Military Exhibit	119.80	
	<u>735.90</u>	
Dedicated to preserving, protecting and interpreting Michigan history. P.O. Box 70038, Lansing, MI 48907 (517) 373-1668 • Fax 241-3647		

A question was raised regarding how often does the state transfer funds received from new Friends members. Chris Dancisak stated that he believed that was quarterly but was not certain.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; motion passed.

Presentation of Bills

No action was taken on the bill for \$367.66 (reimbursement for M.Q. Leiby for attendance at the AASLH Council Meeting). The issue remains on hold until the fiscal situation between the state and the Friends is resolved.

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Museum Report

Chris Dancisak presented what he basically presented at the last meeting in regards to the state's and the Michigan Historical Center's funding cuts and bleak fiscal outlook. He indicated that in order to help make up the \$150,000 short fall, many activities would be scaled back including, program delivery staff would be downsized, museum travel would be cut by one-third, museum marketing cut by one-third, and no funding for student assistance at the various state field sites including headquarters. The state is looking at the possibility of arranging funding for student interns through from private sources, but the mechanism to achieve this has yet to be worked out.

A question was raised regarding the Friends sitting down with the state to inquire how the state arrived at what services to be cut and also to explore how the Friends might be able to assist in helping to mitigate some of the field service related program cuts. It was indicated that the proposed cuts and how the state arrived at them could be addressed in part at the upcoming October 23rd meeting. Several ideas regarding how the Friends might help were brought up including:

1. Possibly appealing directly to the Friends' membership for additional financial assistance;
2. Possibly involving local chambers of commerce in areas where the state has field sites for financial assistance to support local program delivery personnel (e.g., student assistants, interns, etc);
3. Possibly developing working relationships with local school systems and retired history teachers in area where the state has field sites to develop ongoing internships (possibly for credit) for students; and
4. Possibly extending beyond the normal realm of historical resources and people and going to such entities as the state's Michigan Economic Development Corporation for assistance.

It was indicated that President Spaniola would transmit a letter to the Department expressing the Friends concern regarding the shortfall and the proposed cuts, and also to see if the state would be interested in exploring with the Friends some alternatives to help reduce the anticipated impact to the state's historical program delivery system.

Committee Reports

A. *Map Presentation* - There was no activity to report.

B. *Veterans Day Program (November 5, 2006, 2:00 PM)* – The groups to carry the Colors still needed to be confirmed. Regarding several of the other issues, the program flier has been sent out, the plaque has been arranged for, the ribbons have been ordered, the refreshments have been arranged for, and Paul Tarr indicated that he would contact the VFW National Home. President Spaniola stated that Board members planning on attending should arrive early and be wearing their name tags. New Board members should contact Chris to arrange to have their nametags made in time for the program.

C. *Magazine/Military* - There was no activity to report.

D. *Officer Nominations*. The nominating committee report was presented. The proposed slate for officers for the corporation for 2006/07 was:

President - Francis "Bus" Spaniola
Vice President - David H. Brickey
Secretary - Keith G. Harrison

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Treasurer - Dr. Richard S. Johnson.

There were no other nominations offered from the floor.

A motion was made and seconded that that the Board unanimously elect the individuals proposed by the nominating committee for the corporate offices indicated; motion passed.

These individuals will serve until the next annual meeting of the Board of Directors at which time another election of the corporate officers shall occur.

New Business

President Spaniola established a membership committee charged with the responsibility of developing ideas and means to increase the Friends' membership. He appointed Adriana Greci Green, Keith Harrison, Keith Pohl, and Bill Wellman to serve as the core members of the committee and Keith Harrison to serve as chair. The committee's membership is not limited to just three Board members and can be expanded as circumstances dictate.

Two new books were briefly mentioned. The first is by Dr. William Anderson, Director of the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries on Detroit Tiger history and the second, *Traveling through Time*, is an updated guide to the states approximately 1,500 state historical markers.

Old Business

Paul Tarr indicated that he recently took a group on tour through museum and noted that the some of the Friends donation boxes and its membership pamphlets were not that accessible to the public. He also noted that the title on the gift shop's donation box had been changed. It was indicated that the Friends should help monitor the location and bring to the attention of the museum staff the need to keep the Friends donation boxes and pamphlets in clear sight of the public. It also was indicated that the title change on the gift shop donation box could be discussed at the October 23rd meeting.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned; motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary
Board of Directors

A Special Meeting of the Board will take place October 23, 2006 in Lansing. An announcement noting the time will be sent out to the Board.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board will be November 13, 2006 in Lansing.